

In the specification:

Page 1, line 2, replace the heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ Background of the Invention

Page 1, amend the paragraph in lines 13-26 as follows:

The device serves as an accessory for adjusting the length of middle ear implants, in particular partial or total prostheses, during an operation on the human ear. In this case, entirely or partially missing ossicles of the human middle ear, which are supposed to transmit the sound from the eardrum to the stapes or stapedial footplate, are replaced by means of a corresponding middle ear prosthesis to be individually adapted to the specific proportions of the particular patient. Since the dimensions and geometries are different in the ear of each person, a total reconstruction requires the distance to be precisely determined between the eardrum and the stapedial footplate and a partial reconstruction requires the distance to be precisely determined between the eardrum and the stapedial head before a corresponding prosthesis can be inserted. To this end, prosthesis mockups of various sizes, which have typically the shape and form of a normal prosthesis are inserted into the middle ear of

the patient during the operation in order to make a precise length determination.

Page 2, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following heading:

*SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION*

Page 8, before line 1, insert the following heading:

*BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS*

Page 9, line 10, insert the following heading:

*DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS*